

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 00378 152233Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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FM AMCONSUL TORONTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000U

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

ALL CONSULATES GENERAL IN CANADA VIA POUCH

UNCLAS TORONTO 0378

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SOPN, CA

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE FOR AN INDEPENDENT CANADA CELEBRATES SEVENTH  
ANNIVERSARY BY CONFERENCE ON CONFEDERATION

1. THE COMMITTEE FOR AN INDEPENDENT CANADA (CIC) CELEBRATED ITS SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY BY A PUBLIC MEETING ON "STRAINS ON CONFEDERATION" FEBRUARY 12 IN TORONTO. CIC FOUNDING MEMBERS WALTER GORDON, MEL HURTIG, BRRAHAM ROTSTEIN AND PETER NEWMAN ADDRESSED AN OVERFLOW AUDIENCE OF SOME 600 PEOPLE.

2. WHILE THERE WAS LIMITED COVERAGE ON THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA AND IN THE GLOBE & MAIL, AND NONE IN THE SUNDAY SUN (TORONTO'S ONLY SUNDAY NEWSPAPER) OR MONDAY'S THE TORONTO SUN, THE MEETING RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN THE TORONTO STAR, WHICH VIEWED THE ATTENDANCE AS "A DRAMATIC UPSURGE OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE ORGANIZATION." THE STAR GAVE FRONT-PAGE ATTENTION TO A PROPOSAL BY MEL HURTIG THAT A FOURTH NATIONAL PARTY BE FORMED TO PROVIDE WHAT THE EXISTING THREE PARTIES "DO NOT PROVIDE, A BROADLY BASED DEMOCRATIC PARTY, DEDICATED TO A UNITED CANADA, COMMITTED TO OPEN AND HONEST GOVERNMENT, COMMITTED TO FULL EMPLOYMENT POLICIES, COMMITTED TO REDUCED FOREIGN CONTROL...A MORE RESPONSIVE, TRULY PARTICIPATORY PARTY OF REFORM

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PAGE 02 TORONT 00378 152233Z

AND A PARTY DEDICATED TO THE FUTURE OF ONE UNITED CANADA." IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE STAR AFTER HIS SPEECH, HURTIG SUGGESTED THE NEW PARTY MIGHT DRAFT SOMEONE LIKE FLORA MACDONALD.

3. WHILE HURTIG TOLD THE AUDIENCE HE WAS NOT A NATIONALIST, BUT RATHER AN INTERNATIONALIST, AND THAT HE HAD "NOT BEEN TALKING ABOUT NATIONALISM" THAT EVENING, HE DEVOTED A GOOD PART OF HIS

REMARKS TO THE FAILURE OF THE TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT TO BE SERIOUS  
IN REGAINING CANADIAN CONTROL OF THE "SO-CALLED CANADAIN BUSINESS  
COMMUNITY" AND CONTINUED THAT A JOHN TURNER OR A JOE CLARK

CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE THE TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT "LOOK LIKE  
RAVING NATIONALISTS" BY COMPARISON.

4. FORMER LIBERAL FINANCE MINISTER WALTER GORDON TOLD THE CONFERENCE  
THAT QUEBEC'S SEPARATION WOULD MEAN THE END OF CANADA IMMEDIATELY  
OR WITHIN A DECADE OR TWO AND URGED PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU TO CONSIDER

INVITING "A FEW HIGHLY RESPECTED MEN AND WOMEN FROM ENGLISH-SPEAKING  
CANADA, NOT NOW IN ACTIVE POLITICS, TO JOIN HIS CABINET." MACLEAN'S  
MAGAZINE EDITOR PETER NEWMAN CARPD THE ONLY MEANS OF DEALING WITH  
THE PQS "TERMINAL THREAT TO CANADA'S CONTINUITY AS A NATION" IS  
FOR CANADIANS TO JOIN TOGETHER "INTO A NON-PARTISAN MOVEMENT  
DEDICATED TO THE IDEA OF PRESERVING CONFEDERATION, EVEN IF IN  
RADICALLY ALTERED FORM." UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ECONOMICS PROFESSOR  
ABRAHAM ROTSTEIN CALLED THE MOST IMPORTANT RESTRAINT ON A

SEPARATED QUEBEC THE FACT THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO SHARE A COMMON  
CURRENCY WITH CANADA BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT HAVE THE ECONOMIC  
STRENGTH TO FLOAT A NEW CURRENCY IN THE INTERNATIONAL MONEY  
MARKET.

5. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THE TORONTO STAR'S KNOWN POSITION AS THE  
VOICE OF NATIONALISM IN ENGLISH-SPEAKING CANADA, IT WAS NOT SURPRISING

TO SEE ITS EXCESSIVE COVERAGE OF THIS MEETING RELATIVE TO THE ATTENTION  
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PAGE 03 TORONT 00378 152233Z

GIVEN THE CIC BY THE OTHER MEDIA. EDITORIALY IT HAD LITTLE TO  
SAY EXCEPT THAT THE CIC IS GOOD AND SERVES A DEFINITE PURPOSE,  
WITHOUT BOTHERING TO GO TOO MUCH INTO SPECIFICS. THE INCREASE IN  
ATTENDANCE TO 600 FROM THE CIC'S SEPTEMBER MEETING WHEN ONLY 62  
ATTENDED SHOULD BE LOOKED AT A LITTLE MORE CLOSELY THAN THE SIMPLE  
REPORTING OF THE TORONTO STAR. THE SEPTEMBER MEETING, IN LUNENBURG,  
NOVA SCOTIA, WAS NOT IN THE SAME DEMOGRAPHIC CIRCUMSTANCES AS LAST  
SATURDAY'S ONA DONE CAN WONDER HOW MANY OF THE 600 WHO ATTENDED THE  
TORONTO MEETING CAME OUT OF AN INTEREST IN THE CIC OR TO HEAR FOUR  
PROMINENT ENGLISH-SPEAKING CANADIANS DISCUSS THE QUEBEC ISSUE. THE  
ABSENCE OF COVERAGE OF THE MEETING IN THE TABLOID SUNDAY OR MONDAY  
SUN SEEMS TO REFLECT WHAT OBSERVERS IN THE PAST HAVE NOTED AS THE  
CIC'S

MAJOR WEAKNESS -- THAT IT DID NOT ORIGINALLY MAKE AN EFFORT TO APPEAL  
TO THE WORKING CLASS AND ITS ATTEMPTS SINCE THEN TO BROADEN ITS MEMBER-

SHIP BEYOND THE ACADEMIC AND BUSINESS COMMUNITIES HAVE NOT BEEN  
SUCCESSFUL.

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## Message Attributes

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